and increased public participation, and the project is to be completed by the Irrigation Department and Self-Helf Groups within three years;

(b) if so, being a World Bank-aided project, whether the Central Government is monitoring its progress; and

(c) whether there is any dispute existing between the affected seven Irrigation Divisions Maharashtra and the Self-Help Groups like Nagpur-based Gramin Vikas Sansthodhan, Prashikshan Sanstha, etc. relating to funds which is impending this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) An agreement for IBRD loan for US $325 Million has been signed with the World Bank on 19.08.2005 for Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project with the closing date on 31.3.2012. The project includes a component on participatory rehabilitation of 1368 canal works, 151 draining schemes, 283 Dam safety works and 82 other building works. The project will support participatory rehabilitation of 286 selected (9 major, 13 medium and 264 minor) irrigation schemes covering 6,70,000 hectare of Culturable Command Area (CCA).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Maharashtra has reported that no such case has been noticed.

Report on Less Water-More Crop

4424. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report on less water-more crop and income per drop of water in the last year;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations therein;

(c) whether Government are considering their proposal for the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan submitted its report on more crop and income per drop of water. Recommendations made by this Sub-Committee have been summarized and given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council while constituting the above Sub-Committee stated that the report of the Sub-Committee will be placed considered at the next meeting of the Council. Accordingly, the report of the Sub-Committee will be before the Council in its next meeting, However, preliminary action on recommendations has already been initiated.

Statement

Recommendations made by the sub-committee headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan 'more crop and income per drop of water'

The report of the Sub-committee on 'more crop and income per drop of water' highlights that the irrigation water security is vital both for livelihood and food security. The report draws attention to the scope available for improving the efficiency of use of irrigation water in a manner that both the productivity and profitability of farming are enhanced which is the pathway to an ever-green revolution all over the country, without associated ecological harm. Important recommendations of the Sub-Committee are as follows:—

* The Sub-Committee recommended observation of Year 2007-08 as the 'Year of More Crop and Income per Drop of Water to give the strategies and their importance in improving the productivity and income per unit of water.

* Adequate provisions in XI Plan for inclusion of the measures for augmentation of water supply should be made. The investment from Government as well as from lending Agencies such as World Bank should give priority for modernization of the tertiary canals with control structures.

* Micro Irrigation technology e.g. drip and sprinkler irrigation including drip fertigation to increase productivity of crops with less water should also be popularized. System of Rice Intensification technology (SRI) which requires less quantity of seeds, less nursery area, saves water and labour and enhance yield is also required to be popularized.

* Introduction of weather based crop insurance for minimizing the losses to farmers for safeguarding farmers during weather uncertainties.

* Implementation of Farmer Participatory Action Research Programmes with the help of Agricultural Universities, Research Institutes, ICRISAT, WALMIs, etc. for triggering a mass movement. This Programme can cover 5000 villages in different agro-climatic regions during 2007-08. The Gram Sabhas in the villages will serve as Pani-panchayats and will provide overall guidance and support to this programme. In addition, launching of water literacy movement' and imparting training to one woman and man from every panchayat as Water Masters is also suggested.

* The Water User Agencies (WUAs) should be involved in the decision making so that the maintenance of the structures will be made easy.

* In order to implement successfully the above recommendations, a 3-tier setup at Village, State and National level has been suggested. At National level, a Pan Government of India Steering Committee consisting of representatives of various Departments which will report to-Agricultural Cordination Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister.

Land affected due to floods in the country

4425. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge part of land became affected due to floods in the country;